

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01 COA-01 EB-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 USIA-15 /059 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:WSDIEDRICH

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL

ARA/EP:JKING (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 032836

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE ON TUNA VESSEL SEIZURES

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR THE USE OF DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 12:

Q: YOU SAID THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS STUDYING HOW
THESE TUNA VESSEL SEIZURES MIGHT AFFECT U.S. ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES AND CREDITS TO ECUADOR. HAS
THE DEPARTMENT COME TO ANY CONCLUSION?

A: THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS MANDATED BY CONGRESS TO DEAL
WITH SEIZURES OF U.S. FISHING VESSELS ARE WELL KNOWN. I
ASSURE YOU THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO
ACT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE U.S. HAS CUT-OFF ASSISTANCE?

A: (ON BACKGROUND: NO. ALL U.S. ASSISTANCE CONTRACTED FOR
PRIOR TO JANUARY 25 OF THIS YEAR CONTINUES. WE HAVE UNDER
REVIEW OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS.

Q: WHAT HAS U.S. AID BEEN RUNNING RECENTLY?

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A: AID HAS BEEN ON THE AVERAGE FROM 2 TO 3 MILLION DOLLARS

ANNUALLY. FOR FY '75 DOLS 2 MILLION WAS PROGRAMED, DOLS 1.2 OBLIGATED.

Q: WHAT HAS ECUADOR IMPOSED IN FINES; HOW MUCH IS THE CATCH WORTH?

A: IN FINES, DOLS 1.5 MILLION. THE CATCH IS WORTH ABOUT A HALF MILLION. (END PREPARED GUIDANCE)

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT NOON BRIEFING, JANUARY 12:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW GUIDANCE ON HOW WE ARE GETTING ALONG WITH ECUADOR ON THESE TUNA BOATS?

A: WELL, I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION YESTERDAY, AND I DID REMARK THAT WE WERE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ECUADORIAN GOVERNMENT. THE ECUADORIAN AMBASSADOR IS CALLING ON THE ACTING SECRETARY THIS AFTERNOON. IT IS ON HIS SCHEDULE.

Q: WAS HE ASKED TO COME IN?

A: NO, I BELIEVE HE REQUESTED THE APPOINTMENT. INGERSOLL

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